GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5136
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
EXPORT PROMOTION
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had identified bio-technology in leather industry, garments, herbal plants and other products besides Information Technology as the areas in which the country had rich potential for exports; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to utilize the potentialities of various items for export promotion item-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a)&(b) : The importance of Biotechnology and Information Technology has been well recognised. The Extreme Focus Products considered to have rich potential for exports inter alia include Readymade Garments, Synthetic man-made textiles, Computer software, Footwear, etc. The task force constituted by Planning Commission for the promotion of medicinal plant sector has inter alia recommended establishment of `Medicinal Plant Board` for an integrated development of the medicinal plants sector, identification of one million hectares of forest area rich in medicinal plants, proper storage of germplasm of all medicinal plants in the gene bank created by Dept. of Biotechnology etc.

Major initiatives taken in information technology sector include setting up of a new Ministry of Information Technology, setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology by the various State Governments, etc. Besides these, Market Development Assistance, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Brand Equity Schemes and Income Tax Concessions have been extended to software exporters. Export promotion being a constant endeavor of the Government, a number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through de-centralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy.

Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports.